

compressible material is detachably fitted over the knob 83 of the uppermost pan cover. This bumper 88 is of such form and size that when the cover of the container is put on and locked in place, the inner wall 31 of the container cover will bear on and compress said bumper 88 and thereby exert resilient downward pressure on the stack of pans to hold the same against shifting of the container as aforesaid.

A set of four pans of the character described which fits within a container having the proportions and capacity above set forth, will hold about eight gallons or somewhat more so that nearly seventy-five percent of the capacity of the container will be held by the set of pans so that capacity loss by the use of the pans is held to a low figure.

The described structure is well adapted for the transportation of food and beverages from central kitchens to industrial plants remote from such kitchens, and for the transportation of foods and beverages by military and naval forces. The ease with which the container, its cover, and the pans and their covers, may be cleaned is a very important factor in the adaptability of the container to these uses. The effective vacuum insulation permits construction of the container with minimum dimensions for the capacity of the container and the all-metal construction adds durability. Although stainless steel is preferred for the container and the pans, either or both may be made of other suitable material which is non-corroding or which is suitably treated to prevent corrosion thereof by the foods, beverages or other goods placed in the container and in the pans. The described container and pans may of course be used for the transportation or storage of materials other than foods and beverages, especially when it is desired to store the materials at a selected temperature for a predetermined time period within the capacity of the container.

Changes in the details of construction may be made while retaining the principles of the invention.

I claim:

1. A portable food container comprising telescopically assembled, relatively fixedly associated outer and inner metal receptacles, the inner receptacle of said container having a bottom and an open mouth end, a closure for the mouth end of said inner receptacle and means detachably securing said closure to said container, a set of pans housed in the container and stacked on one another, said set of pans being in sliding engagement with the side wall of said inner receptacle and the lowermost pan of said stacked pans being seated on the bottom of said inner receptacle, means whereby the closure holds the stack of pans firmly against the bottom of said inner receptacle when the closure is secured to the container as aforesaid, each of said pans having a bottom wall and an open top, a cover removably seated on the top of each pan, said cover having an upwardly projecting knob, and the bottom of each pan having a portion offset upwardly from the normal bottom plane of the pan and dimensioned so as to provide a recess only for receiving the knob of the cover of the next lower pan in the stack of pans, each of said pans also having a bail-form handle pivoted to opposite sides thereof, means for normally supporting said handle in a down position in which said handle extends toward the side of the pan and angularly upwardly of the top of the pan adjacent the side thereof, the lower side wall and adjacent bottom portions of each pan being recessed to provide a space around the bottom of the pan for receiving the upwardly projecting handle portion of the next lower pan in said stack.

2. A portable food container comprising telescopically assembled, relatively fixedly associated outer and inner

metal receptacles, the inner receptacle of said container having a bottom and open mouth end, a closure for the mouth end of said inner receptacle and means detachably securing said closure to said container, said closure being provided with a vent extending therethrough to the interior, and a cap being provided for said vent, said cap being adjustably and detachably secured to said closure whereby said vent may be closed and opened, a set of pans housed in the container and stacked on one another, said set of pans being in sliding engagement with the side wall of said inner receptacle and the lowermost pan of said stacked pans being seated on the bottom of said inner receptacle, means whereby the closure holds the stack of pans firmly against the bottom of said inner receptacle when the closure is secured to the container as aforesaid, each of said pans having a bottom wall and an open top, a cover removably seated on the top of each pan, said cover having a centrally positioned upwardly projecting knob, and the bottom of each pan having a central portion offset upwardly from the normal bottom plane of the pan and dimensioned so as to provide a recess only for receiving the knob of the cover of the next lower pan in the stack of pans, each of said pans also having a bail-form handle pivoted to opposite sides thereof, and means for normally supporting said handle in a down position in which said handle extends toward the side of the pan and angularly upwardly of the top of the pan adjacent the side thereof, the lower side wall and adjacent bottom portions of each pan being recessed to provide a space around the bottom of the pan for receiving the upwardly projecting handle portion of the next lower pan in said stack.

3. A portable food container having a bottom and an open mouth end, a closure for said mouth end, a plurality of pans stacked vertically within the container in closely fitting relation to the inner wall surface of the container, each of said pans comprising a bottom wall, a side wall extending upwardly from said bottom wall and providing an open top, a cover removably seated on said top, said bottom wall being of reduced diameter with respect to the major diameter of said side wall, with the lower portion of said side wall tapering inwardly to the periphery of said bottom, and a bail-form of handle pivotally connected at its opposite ends with said side wall by means affording positioning of said handle in angularly upward relation to the top of said pan and within the recess provided between the inclined lower side wall portion of the overlying pan and the inner wall of the food container.

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